



ANNUAL REPORT

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- for the -

BELLINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT

- for the -

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1945.

The area of Bellingham Rural District remains unchanged at 246,645 acres (340 square miles approximately). The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the area is 4,550, showing a fall in population of 274 since last year. This is largely due to the continued return to their own districts of people who were evacuated to the area during the war.

1945	The number of Inhabited Houses in the area at the end of	
	according to rate books	£500
	Rateable value	£42,861
	Sum represented by Penny Rate	£176.18.3.67

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

There is no change in the social conditions of the area which is entirely rural, there being no industries at all, with the exception of one or two small local folleries, and one or two quarries working very short time, also a small woollen mill at Otterburn.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live births, legitimate.	37	35	72
Live births, illegitimate.	2	7	9
Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population.			16.7.
Stillbirths			Nil
Rate per 1000 Total (Live and Stillbirths)			Nil
Deaths	28	26	54
Death rate per 1000 estimated resident population.			11.86

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

PurperalSepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1945 AND CAUSES

CAUSE OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS OF RESIDENTS whether occurring within or without the district.		
	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory tuberculosis	2	-	2
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	-	1
Cancer of buccal cavity	1	-	1
Carcinoma of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Cancer of all other sites	2	1	3
Intracranial vascular lesions	2	3	5
Heart diseases	10	16	26
Other diseases of circulatory system.	1	1	2
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Other digestive Disorders	1	-	1
Nephritis	1	1	2
Other violent causes	2	-	2
All other causes	1	1	2
TOTALS	28	26	54

INFANT MORTALITY, 1945.

Nett deaths under one year Nil

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1942 AND CAUSES

CAUSE OF DEATH.		NETT DEATHS OF RESIDENTS whether occurring within or without the district.		
		Male	Female	Total
Respiratory tuberculosis	2	2	1	3
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	1	1	2
Cancer of buccal cavity	1	1	1	2
Carcinoma of stomach and intestine	1	1	1	2
Cancer of all other sites	2	2	1	3
Ischaemic vascular lesions	2	2	1	3
Heart diseases	10	10	10	20
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	1	1	2
Pneumonia	2	2	1	3
Other violent causes	1	1	1	2
All other causes	1	1	1	2
	24	24	24	48

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VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1944 AND 1945.

Year	Population Estimated to middle of each year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS		TRANSFER- ABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS belonging to the			
		Uncor- rected No.	No.	Nett Rate.	No. Registered in the District	Rate	Outward	Inward	Under one yr. At all ages.			
									No.	Rate per 1,000 Nett births	No.	Rate.
1944	4824	-	78	16.16	82	17.99	-	9	5	64.1	91	18.86
1945	4550	51	76	16.7	50	11.20	9	13	111	111	54	11.86

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

In January there were a number of cases of chicken pox, also two cases of measles, and one case of mumps.

February saw a severe epidemic of influenza of all types, and there were also three cases of measles.

In March the influenza epidemic was very severe, apart from this there was a sharp outbreak of measles in the Otterburn area, twenty one cases being notified. These were all traced to a bus conductress who infected the passengers on her 'bus.

April showed a diminution in the influenza cases, but two cases of scarlet fever occurred.

In May . . . There was a further outbreak of measles in Bellingham and Woodburn. This spread to the upper North Tyne, and nineteen cases were notified in June in the Kielder area.

July and August passed without infectious disease, but the return of children to Brownrigg School produced two cases of diphtheria and one of scarlet fever in September. There were also two diphtheria cases at Kirkwhelpington, and a few isolated cases of German measles.

In October there was one case of pneumonia, but November saw the return of Influenza, in epidemic form quite a severe type, also one case of chicken pox and one case of scarlet fever. In December the influenza epidemic raged unabated.

Most of the epidemics of infectious diseases in the area seem to be imported from outside areas due to children coming or going out of the district for holidays. Brownrigg Camp is also a prolific source of trouble.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The use of Sulphonamide drugs coupled with Scarlatina Antitoxin and Diphtheria Antitoxin have proved invaluable in controlling infectious disease. The immunisation of children against diphtheria has proved most effective as now there are very few cases and no epidemics of the disease.

DISEASE	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Chickenpox	11	Nil	Nil
Mumps	1	Nil	Nil
Measles	61	Nil	Nil
Whooping cough	1	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	10	Nil	3
Scarlet Fever	4	1	Nil
Diphtheria	4	2	Nil
German Measles	3	Nil	Nil

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Officers of the Rural District Council :-

- (1) Part-time Medical Officer of Health,
Dr.G.W.L.Kirk, M.B., Ch.B.
- (2) Whole-time Sanitary Officer,
Mr.S.Clough, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Laboratory Facilities. Efficient laboratory facilities are provided at the County Laboratory, Bwburn.

Ambulance Facilities. The local Ambulance provided by public subscriptions serves almost the whole of the area, and also a small part of the Rothbury area.

Nursing in the Home. Six district nurses carry out the work of domiciliary nursing with commendable efficiency.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. The County Council run a children's Clinic under Dr.H.Glen-Davison on the second Thursday of each month.

Hospitals. There are no hospitals in the area.

Signed: G. W. L. Kirk, M.B., Ch.B.

ANNUAL REPORT

- of the -

SANITARY INSPECTOR

- for the -

BELLINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT

- for the -

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1945.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER

During the year a letter was received from the Northumberland County Council requesting a comprehensive survey of every water supply in the Rural District. The Council informed the County Council :

- (a) The only way to meet the needs of the Rural Area was by small communal schemes.
- (b) The only technical staff available was one person.
- (c) When such data is compiled it is a matter of much apprehension whether the County Scheme would be of any value to the Rural District; it may assist the East side of Northumberland but not a scattered area such as Bellingham Rural Area.

Continued effort with success is being made providing new individual supplies to isolated properties.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Council's attention was drawn to the inadequacy of sewerage works, particularly in Wark and Bellingham.

At Bellingham some 22 new Council houses, together with a new School, are contemplated, and, in addition, some 50 to 60 conversions are considerably overdue.

At Wark some 12 new Council Houses are contemplated, and again a considerable number of conversions are outstanding.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Generally speaking over the whole area pollution is not extensive. However, due to inadequate scavenging facilities, a growing practice is to deposit garbage and refuse in rivers and streams.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Steady progress is being maintained with conversions where water and sewerage is available. This is not always possible - See 2.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Contracts exist in the areas of Bellingham, Greenhaugh and Wark. Extract from Report dated August 1945, to Council "Conditions are becoming fouler and more nauseating throughout the whole area" Data has been submitted covering the purchase of a vehicle which was deferred pending consideration of private contracts.

6. SHOPS

Ventilation and sanitation of shops in the area would appear to be satisfactory.

7. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

This has been maintained and a tabular statement is appended at the end of the report.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. MILK SUPPLIES.

In the Rural Area there are 68 dairy farms, all of which are subject to regular inspection and periodic sampling. The standard of production is reasonably good.

2. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Central slaughtering still obtains at Hexham. Food shops, and food preparing premises receive regular inspection.

3. ADULTERATION

During the year no adverse reports have been received, after sampling.

4. CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

Facilities for this work exist at the Northumberland County Council laboratory at Newburn.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

Number of slaughterhouses on the register	
now used as meat stores	6
Number of Licensed slaughtermen	9
Inspections made (including Meat shops).....	98

FOOD INSPECTION

	<u>Unsound food.</u>	<u>Surrendered.</u>
1. Beef		6 lbs
2. Canned Goods.		51 lbs
3. Cheese		5 lbs
4. Vegetables		127 lbs
5. Fruit		16 lbs
6. Bacon		1 lb.

FACTORIES (INCLUDING WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES)

On the register at the end of the year	20
(a) Factories with power	8
(b) Factories without power	12
Visits of inspection	24

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Visits of inspection	176
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NOTICES

Under the Public Health Acts (Intimatory).....	116
" " " " " (Statutory).....	2
" " Housing Acts (Intimatory).....	247
" " " " (Statutory).....	-
" " Milk & Dairies Order, 1926 (Intimatory)	66
" " " " " (Statutory)	-

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER 1945

NUISANCES

Complaints received	47
Nuisances observed	108
Nuisances abated	94
Nuisances unabated or work in hand	14
Sanitary Conveniences repaired.....	18
Drains tested	10
New drains laid	42
New gullys traps fixed	16
New chambers constructed	21
Septic tanks and filters constructed (private).....	12
New water closets fixed	24
Houses disinfected	4

WATER SUPPLIES.

Houses visited with special reference to water supplies	97
Houses provided with supplies from new water mains	5
Old connections with service pipe renewed	12
Houses provided with new supplies (private).....	5

HOUSING

Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	182
Number of inspections made	321
Houses recorded under Consolidated Regulations	-
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	-
Houses (not including the above) with structural or other defects.....	46
Houses, defects remedied.....	82
Representation for closing or demolition.. ..	-
Closing Orders served	-
Demolition Orders served	-
Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.....	-
Cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	-
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	121
Number of visits made under the Public Health Acts .	207
Number of houses with defects amounting to nuisances	27
Number of houses with defects (nuisances abated).....	27

SEWERING

Inspections (including interviews with owners of properties regarding the provision of new sanitary arrangements and drainage connections.....	97
Private drains connected to public sewers.....	12
Privies converted to water carriage system.....	9
New water closets built.....	8
New gully traps fixed.....	61
New chambers constructed.....	32

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

On the register at the end of the year (producers and wholesalers, 7; Producers and retailers, 59).....	68
Visits of inspection	242
Number of registered premises (including new cowsheds structurally improved).....	8

